

13. The aircraft turned right approximately 280° and descended from approximately 18,000 feet above the ground in the last minute of flight, as evidenced from the position of the landing gear doors 2.4 miles northwest of the crash site.
14. The pilot attempted to slow the aircraft and regain control during the dive by reducing power to idle, extending the speed brakes, and lowering the landing gear.

(b) Probable Cause

The Board determines that the probable cause of this accident was that, following a malfunction or failure in the 115-volt alternating current electrical system, the crew did not take proper action, resulting in the loss of the pilot's flight instruments in instrument flight conditions and subsequent loss of control.

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3. RECOMMENDATION

As a result of this investigation, Commodore Aviation, Inc., is changing the emergency procedures section of the Jet Commander flight manual to provide a warning that the generator switch of a failed generator must stay in the "ON" position to maintain the automatic load transfer function.

This accident points up the need for owners and pilots of aircraft to be informed of the installation and utilization of complex avionics equipment. Aircraft maintenance and flight manuals should be updated by supplemental documentation whenever avionics modifications are made to the aircraft. This is not now being done on a standardized basis. Activities installing supplemental type certificate (STC) modifications should be required to provide the owner of the aircraft with appropriate instructions for the proper operation and maintenance thereof.

The Board, therefore, recommends that:

The Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, take necessary action to assure that all avionics modifications to aircraft, and their proper use, be documented as amendments to the maintenance and flight manuals and that this information be disseminated to aircraft owners and pilots.

BY THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD:

/s/ JOHN H. REED  
Chairman

/s/ OSCAR M. LAUREL  
Member

/s/ FRANCIS H. McADAMS  
Member

/s/ LOUIS M. THAYER  
Member

Isabel A. Burgess, Member, did not participate in the adoption of this report.

September 9, 1970.